

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 264558

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264558

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 13782 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
THE HAGUE ISLAMABAD KATHMANDU LONDON MANILA NAIROBI OTTAWA
BOMBAY CALCUTTA HONG KONG MADRAS WELLINGTON 16 OCT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13782

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, IN, CASC, PINS, SREF, NP

SUBJECT: ANANDA MARG

REF: STATE 242044

SUMMARY: EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ANANDA MARG MEMBERS
IN INDIA SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED VISAS TO THE US AT THIS TIME ON
GROUNDS OF SECTION 212A 28 (F-H) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALI-
ZATPON ACT IN VIEW OF THE IMPUTED "TERRORIST" ASPECTS OF THE
ORGANIZATION IN INDIA, NOT BECAUSE OF ANY POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON INDO-
US RELATIONS. ANANDA MARG ACTIVITIES IN INDIA ARE TOTALY
DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF HARE KRISHNA, DIVINE LIGHT, AND SIMILAR
ORGANIZATIONS IN THEUS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOI EVIDENCE
AGAINST MARG CANNOT BE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED AND DOUBTS THAT CASE
AGAINST MARG OVER LAST FEW YEARS CAN BE CONSIDERED
AS "SHOW TRIAL". BRITISH, DUTCH, GERMAN MISSIONS IN NEW
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 264558

DELHI HAVE DETERMINED THEY WILL STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST

ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO ANY ANANDA MARG MEMBERS. KENYA HAS EXPELLED ANANDA MARG MEMBERS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEFERRAL OF ACTION ON THREE APPLICANTS IN KATHMANDU AND INITIATION OF NEW INVESTIGATION OF ORGANIZATION AND DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN INDIAN AND US BRANCHES. END SUMMARY.

1. WE BELIEVE REFTTEL ERRONEOUSLY IMPLIES THAT OUR MAIN CONCERN REGARDING USG ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARG AS A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS IS THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT THIS MAY HAVE ON INDO-US RELATIONS. THIS IS INCORRECT. IN OUR TWO MAIN ANALYSES OF THE MARG, FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT AFTER RPT AFTER THE 1972 INS INQUIRY INTO THE MARG (NEW DELHI 5062, 1974; NEW DELHI 13085, 1975) WE DESCRIBED ORGANIZATIONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEADERSHIP ASPECTS OF THE MARG THAT RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS WHETHER INDIAN MARG "MINISTERS" OR "MEMBERS" WERE ELIGIBLE UNDER SEC 212W

OF THE INA FOR ADMISSION INTO THE US. THE INHERENT POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS NATURE OF THIS SEMI-SECRET ORGANIZATION, ITS IMPUTED "TERRORIST" ACTIVITIES, THE EMOTIONAL/SPIRITUAL PREMIUM IT PLACES ON ITS SUPREME LEADER (WHICH HAS PRODUCED A NUMBER OF SELF-IMMOLATIONS AND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON HIS BEHALF) AND THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION AS CONTAINED IN MARG WRITINGS ALL RAISE STRONG QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL VIOLENT ASPECTS OF THE ANANDA MARG AND ITS MEMBERS IN INDIA.

2. THE STATEMENT THAT THE CASE AGAINST THE MARG IS BASED PRINCIPALLY ON EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY THE GOI IS LARGELY TRUE BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVIDENCE CAN BE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED. MOREOVER THE TRIAL IN WHICH THE LEADER OF THE ANANDA MARG HAS BEEN ENGAGED HAS GONE ON FOR YEARS, CERTAINLY LONG BEFORE THE CURRENT EMERGENCY AND ANY SUPPOSED POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS FOR THE PROSECUTION WOULD HAVE COME INTO PLAY. THE REGULAR AND LENGTHY DELAYS IN SARKAR'S HEARING HAVE BEEN MOSTLY INITIATED BY HIS LAWYERS - NOT THE GOI. WE DOUBT THAT THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY SARKAR'S WIFE AND HIS LEADING FOLLOWERS AGAINST SARKAR HAS BEEN ORCHESTRATED BY THE GOI IN FRONT OF A "COOPERATING" MAGISTRATE. WE BELIEVE THE DESCRIPTIONS IN COURT OF THE MURDER OF SARKAR'S

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 264558

FOLLOWINGS (POUCHED TO NEA/INS) SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED.

3. IF IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE THAT THE MORE RECENT CHARGES AGAINST THE ANANDA MARG OF ASSASSINATING RAILWAYS MINISTER L., N. MISHRA AND ATTEMPTING THE ASSASSINATION OF CHIEF JUSTICE RAY (NEW DELHI 12116, NEW DELHI 10638) ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED; BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THESE CHARGES CAN BE TOTALLY PUT ASIDE IN ASSESSING THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTI-

VITPES AT THIS TIME.

4. RE REFTEL'S PARA 4. WE HAVE INQUIRED AT SEVERAL EMBASSIES IN DELHI AS TO HOW THEY ARE HANDLING ANANDA MARG APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS. OUR FINDINGS:

(A) UK: THE BRITISH HAVE RECEIVED TWO SEPARATE APPLICATIONS TO DATE. THEY FORWARDED BOTH APPLICATIONS TO LONDON WITH A "CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND" AND A STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT THE APPLICATIONS. A HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER STATED THAT LONDON REJECTED THE FIRST APPLICATION AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REJECT THE SECOND.

(B) FRG: THE GERMAN CONSUL ADVISES THAT THE "CRIMINAL" BACKGROUND OF THE MARG GUARANTEES A REJECTION IF MARGIS APPLY (NONE HAVE THUS FAR).

(C) NETHERLANDS: THE DUTCH FIRST SECRETARY (POLITICAL) COMMENTED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED A NUMBER OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE GROWN OUT OF THE EMERGENCY. ONE OF THE "ESPECIALLY GOOD THINGS" HE STATED, WAS THE BANNING OF THE ANANDA MARG. THE DUTCH DIPLOMAT INFORMED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED ITS "UNDERSTANDING" OF THE MARG TO THE HAGUE IN CLASSIFIED FORM. THOUGH NO MARGIS HAVE APPLIED, THE DUTCH EMBASSY WOULD FORWARD ANY APPLICATION ALONG WITH A "STRONGLY NEGATIVE" MESSAGE RECOMMENDING REJECTION IF ANY SHOULD. HE BELIEVED THE HAGUE WOULD ACCEPT IT.

(D) KENYA: KENYA HAS ALSO BANNED THE ANAND MARG.

5. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THE QUESTION OF THE ANANDA MARG ORGANIZATION IN THE US AND OF AMERICANS WHO BELONG TO IT IS QUITE SEPARATE FROM THAT IN INDIA. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 264558

THE SITUATION IN INDIA THAT IS RELEVANT TO A DECISION ON INDIAN CITIZEN MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE US. IN INDIA THE ANANDA MARG IS SIMPLY NOT ANALOGOUS TO OTHER INDIAN SECTS SUCH AS HARE KRISHNA, DIVINE LIGHT, ETC.

6. AS NOTED ABOVE, SUCH EVIDENCE AS WE DO HAVE HERE SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS AT LEAST STRONG DOUBT AS TO THE ELIGIBILITY ON SECURITY GROUNDS OF INDIAN ANANDA MARGIS. CERTAINLY THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF THE EMBASSY OR CONGEN CALCUTTA OBTAINING ANY SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR THE THREE VISA APPLICANTS CURRENTLY IN KATHMANDU NOR WOULD THIS MISSION FEEL IT COULD ENDORSE A WAIVER OF SUCH CLEARANCE. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT THE CHARACTER OF THE ANANDA MARG

ORGANIZATION IN INDIA IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN THE US TO
JUSTIFY DEALING WITH PROSPECTIVE INDIAN ANANDA MARG VISA
APPLICANTS WPTH GREAT CAUTION.

7. EMBASSY BELIEVES EMBASSY KATHMANDU SHOULD DEFER ACTION
ON THREE ANANDA MARGIS (STATE 243045), AND THAT DEPARTMENT
AND INS SHOULD INITIATE NEW SECURITY REVIEW OF ANANDA MARG
STATUS, SPECIFICALLY WITH A VIEW TO ASSESSING EXTENT TO
WHICH ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES OF AMERICAN BRANCH AND INDIAN
MOTHER ORGANIZATION ARE SAME OR DIFFERENT.

8. ADDENDUM: EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED FROM CANADIAN HIGH
COMMISSION THAT, AS FAR AS THEY ARE AWARE, GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA HAS NOT ISSUED ANY STATEMENT OR MADE ANY DECISION
ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OR BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF
THE ANANDA MARG ORGANIZATION.
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